

Application No. 09/461,625
Amendment dated March 25, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 28, 2004

Atty. Docket No. 2207/7562
Assignee: Intel Corporation

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-21, 23-31, and 33-44 are pending in the application. Reconsideration in view the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4, 23-25, 33-35, and 42-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,600,739, to Evans et al ("Evans"). Claims 5-21, 26-31 and 36-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,832,494 to Wooten.

Applicants respectfully submit that nowhere does the Evans reference teach, suggest or disclose "[a] digital system comprising: *a first hub controller adapted to initiate and perform a first transaction at a first time with a host controller* and to initiate and perform the first transaction at a second time with the host controller; a second hub controller coupled to the first hub controller and adapted to perform a second transaction with an agent based upon the first transaction at the first time; and wherein the first transaction at the second time is performed after the second transaction (e.g. as described in claim 44).

For support the Office Action cites in general column 3 lines 35-45 of Evans, asserting the section allegedly discloses a first hub controller (211 controlling hubs 207 & 209) having a device driver (within CPU 230) adapted to initiate and perform a first transaction at a first time with a host controller (enabling USB function 215/217 to be coupled to host controller 205 according to select signal 223). Column 3 lines 35-45 state:

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During operation, assume that USB host controller 205 controls USB functions 215 and 217. In this example, USB host controller 205 may be considered the primary host device and USB host controller 203 may be considered the secondary host device. As such, USB host controller 203 generates a select signal 223 via CPU 230 to enable USB functions 215 and 217 to be coupled to USB host controller 205 through the "1" upstream ports of selection devices 211 and 213. Therefore, USB functions 215 and 217 may communicate with one another through USB host controller 205.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Action's interpretation of the cited section. Specifically, it is clear that in the Evans reference it is the host controller 203 that generates a signal 223 that enables USB function 215 and 217 to be coupled to USB host controller 205, not the first device 211 nor the USB hub 207 or 209. However, in the embodiment of claim 44, it is the first hub controller that is adapted to initiate and perform a first transaction with a host controller. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that since each and every element is not taught, suggested or disclosed by the cited reference, the 102(e) rejection of independent claim 44 is lacking and should be withdrawn. Dependant claims 33-41 are allowable as they depend from allowable claim 44.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that nowhere does the Chambers reference teach, suggest or disclose "[a] method for communicating data between a host and an agent, the method comprising: *performing a first transaction at a first time between a host controller and a hub, said first transaction initiated by said host controller*; performing a second transaction between the hub and an agent based on the first transaction at the first time; and repeating, by the host controller, the first transaction at a second time between the host controller and the hub" (e.g., as recited in claim 42).

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It is clear that the cited section Evans is meant to disclose transactions taking place between host controller 203 and host controller 205, not a hub as recited in Applicant's claims. Unlike the embodiment of claim 42, which describes performing a first transaction at a first time between a host controller and a hub, the Evans reference specifically states that USB host controller 203 generates a select signal... to be coupled to *host controller 205*. Evans does not teach a transaction taking place between the host controller and hub. The alleged equivalents of the hub, elements 207 and 209 (as maintained by the Office action) are not mentioned anywhere in the cited section. Applicants respectfully submit that each and every element is not taught, suggested or disclosed by the cited reference, and therefore the 102(e) rejection of claim 42 is lacking and should be withdrawn. Independent claims 11, 16 and 43 includes substantively similar limitations and therefore should be allowed for the same reasons. Claims 2-10, 12-15, 17-21, and 23-31 depend from allowable independent claims, and therefore should be allowed as well.

For all the above reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

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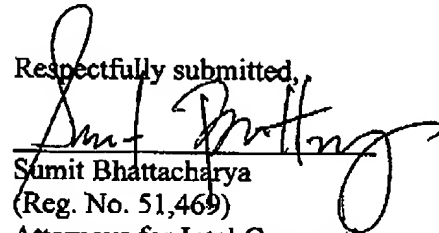
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The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (408) 975-7500 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Dated: March 25, 2005

By:

Respectfully submitted,


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